MONTEREY NEWS

December 2010
VOLUME XL · Number 12

The Town

by Sue Protheroe

Cell Towers, Poles

Maggie Leonard, Larry Klein, and Stephen Enoch of the Planning Board met with Infinity cell tower representatives. The feeling was that we need three or four towers to provide optimal coverage for the town. Larry felt that the town is going to have to call a special meeting at the end of this year or at the start of 2011 to consider a new telecommunications bylaw. The Planning Board would like to see an overlay district for the whole town, which would give them the power to control specific attributes of towers, but not the locations. There should be informational meetings prior to the special meeting.

Eugene Bounous of 31 Main Road attended a Select Board meeting to report that he had submitted a plan to the town to erect a cell tower on his property, which has been denied by the Building Department and referred to the Board of Appeals if he decides to apply for a variance. Other proposed locations for Infinity towers are at the top of Hupi Road and at New England Keswick on Chestnut Hill. Mr. Bounous attended a Planning Board meeting to review the zoning, where it was decided that a proposal for a pole up to 200 feet may be presented at a public hearing.

The Verizon pole hearing was continued from October 4, when Verizon engineer Albert Bessette had proposed the

The Cultural Council's December 4th Monterey Makers Studio Tour features the work of Monterey artists and artisans, including (cw from top left): Rawson Brook Farm (Monterey Chevre); Honey Hill Farm (llama yarn, honey); Ellen Grenadier pottery; Wendy Jensen baskets; Michael and Maureen Banner silver works; Julie Shapiro paintings; Bidwell House (works by Ruth Green, Mary Kate Jordan, Karen Miller, Kit Patten); Joe Baker landscapes. Other participants are Julie Neu, quilter; Lowland Farm Maple Syrup; Berkshire Media Artists; Peter Murkett, furnishings; Lois Ryder, scratchboard; Pam Johnson, quilts; Deborah Bernhardt, poetry; Leonard Weber, townscapes. Studios will be open from 10 am–4 pm; maps available at the General Store.

placement of two poles on Route 23 on the Otis-Monterey line. (The Board had postponed giving a permit to Verizon to see if Verizon's service to Monterey could be improved.) At the November 22nd meeting, Mr. Bessette was accompanied by Ellen Cummings, Director of External Affairs for Verizon, who pointed out that Verizon had met the legal standard for pole hearings and that the purpose of the line was to run fiber cable between Lee and Otis, resulting in an overall improvement to the system. She said that she had spoken with Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, who said the proposal was up to specifications. The fiber cable, an interoffice facility cable, would allow more diversity in the network and has nothing to do with DSL or cell phone service.

Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert said he had discussed the matter with town counsel, and that there was a legal provision that allows the town to withhold permission or permits to any entity that is not in compliance. Cummings asked why counsel was not present at the pole hearing, and Sylbert said that since Verizon was not represented by counsel, it was not a proper venue. Sylbert pointed out that the town of Hancock had filed litigation against Verizon for poor compliance with service requirements, and that, perhaps as a result, Verizon has invested half a million dollars in Hancock's infrastructure.

Eleven members of the public attended the hearing, and made vocal complaints about Verizon's service, such as losing telephone connections when it rains, rude operator assistance in emergencies, the dangers of losing phone service and not having cell phones. Ellen Cummings refused to address these complaints at the pole hearing, which she said was strictly about the pole proposal, but requested that anyone with problems contact her at 508-624-2219. Mickey Jervas expressed the general frustration with Verizon of those in attendance: "So we can assume that everything we have said here tonight has fallen on deaf ears."

Selectman Wayne Burkhart said that the original cell service bylaw, written in 1998, was intended to stop cell towers because they were deemed unsightly. A new town bylaw is being proposed to facilitate the location of cell towers. Michael Storch pointed out that there is a small, but very real faction of people who oppose cell towers for health reasons.

The Board decided to continue the hearing until they had consulted further with Town Counsel to see if there is a legal basis for refusing the pole permit because Verizon is not providing adequate service.

Corrected Winter Roads Policy

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes pointed out that the November *Monterey News* article outlining the winter roads policies of the Highway Department contained some mistakes in the following areas, which he asked that readers be made aware of:

1. Sand is available at the transfer station when open. The salt shed is not available to the public.

2. Salt is applied to paved roads as snowfall begins to prevent snow from bonding to the pavement. The goal of the Highway Department during snowstorms is to plow often and early enough so that we have no more than 3 inches of snow on paved roads and no more that 6 inches on gravel roads. It all depends on the type of snow, the rate it is falling, how long it will fall, and the temperature.

3. Tires: Snow tires are not only superior to all weather radials in snow; they actually are the only acceptable tires for winter driving.

Please refer to the complete town winter roads policy, printed on p. 5, and available on the town website, www.montereyma.gov/Public_Documents/MontereyMA_About/HwyDept.

Highway Department Activity

- Checking beaver ponds and culverts.
- Blowing leaves off roads.

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- Putting up snow fences.
- Removing stumps and trees on Mt. Hunger Road, filling holes with gravel.
- Adding a culvert and line ditch on New Marlboro Road.
- Patching potholes, Gould Road.
- Meeting with contractors, Bally Gally house.
- Checking water level, Lake Garfield.
- New pole requests, National Grid.
- Repairing the 4500 sander and the 550 sander.
- Replacing lights at the town hall porch and flagpole.
- Showing plow route to the relief plow operator.
- Salting, plowing, and sanding during the first sleet/snow/freezing rain mix.
- Attending Highway Superintendents' meeting

Bally Gally

Anna and Peter Poirier, tenants at the Bally Gally house on the former Wilson-McLaughlin property, have signed a temporary lease for the period while repairs are being made to the house and they will not be able to stay there. The Board had a question about why the house is being re-roofed, which had not been approved, and also about how long the Poiriers would be out of the house while repairs were being done. Maynard Forbes is finding another apartment for the Poiriers to use while their kitchen is under construction. They will sign a new lease when they are able to move back in.

Maynard Forbes

Monterey Firefighters and M.D. Amstead crew removing shingles from the firehouse roof prior to installation of new metal roof.

Dog Park

Charles Ferris and Dennis Downing, proponents of the proposed dog park, came in to discuss the application the town will need to submit to the Zoning Board requesting a special permit to have a dog park on the Edith Wilson property. This is the final step, as the Parks Department has amended their regulation allowing dogs on this property; this will also need to be corrected at Town Meeting in the town bylaws. The current special permit was only issued for a community center and community garden; no other municipal uses were approved. The Board questioned the slope of the proposed park (regulations say you can't have more than a 2 percent grade for handicapped access) The Board wants town counsel to review the application before they sign it and submit it to the ZBA. The Board agreed to waive the filing fee. (At a later meeting, the Board signed the application.)

Schools

Dr. Michael Singleton, Superintendent of Schools for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, and Bruce Turner, came to a Select Board meeting to discuss the mission statement and goal statements for the school district. A town meeting packet, "Presentation of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District FY11 Budget," was distributed, as well as a 2010–2011 Staff Roster, and a FY12 Budget Development Calendar.

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(Documents are available to view at Town Hall.) Dr. Singleton said that one concern is that the special education and Title 504 numbers are running about 25 percent of the student population, and that the numbers are not expected to lessen. Some of these students are choiced in because SBRSD has an exceptional special ed program. Another concern is that ARRA money is expected to dry up.

Improvements have been made in heating and lighting of the schools, therefore saving money.

A five-town meeting on the schools will be coming up, date to be announced.

Police Matters

- Motor vehicle accident, Main Road.
- 2008 cruiser taken in for transmission repair.
- Motor vehicle accident, Main and Corashire.
- Removed trapped raccoon from transfer station dumpster.
- Assisted citizen, Main Road.
- Trees across wires, Tyringham Road, Fairview Road, Hupi Road.
- Suspicious activity reported, Pixley Road.
- Assisted with medical call, Main Road.
- False alarms: Bidwell and Art School Roads, Woodland Drive, Hupi Woods.
- Assisted Great Barrington Police Department with a missing person.
- Investigated breaking and entering, Main Road.
- Loose horses, Brett Road.

This and That

A letter was drafted to the Fire Department reminding them to stick to their budget; having spent $27,000 through October, they will likely run out of money in March. Last year the town approved an override for $16,000, but to do so this year will require approval at a special Town Meeting next May 6. The Fire Department responded, acknowledging the situation and requesting a meeting with the Select Board to address the situation. The meeting was scheduled for December 6.

The Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House was concerned about the status of the driveway. Maynard Forbes told the Select Board that by the time the location was approved it was too late to begin work, so it will be done in the spring.

The Select Board reviewed noise ordinances—they are town bylaws, rather than zoning bylaws. Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe will review what bylaws other towns have, and the Board will present a noise ordinance bylaw at the annual Town Meeting in May.

The Board looked over the Wilson McLaughlin renewal lease; it has been five years since May 7, 2005, and is up for renewal.

Stanley Ross from the Board of Assessors came in to have the Board sign the new tax rate, which will be $5.28 per thousand. It is going down by seven cents from the current rate. The Board agreed. Our next real estate revaluation will be in 2011, and will be based on 2009 sales figures.

Because of a member's illness, Ross was concerned that there would not be a quorum for the Zoning Board of Appeals, and asked the Board if they could appoint someone temporarily. Michael Storch volunteered to serve on a temporary basis.

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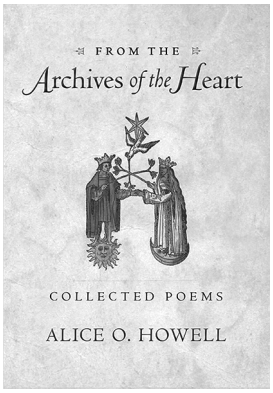

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Town of Monterey Winter Road, Town Property Policy

Winter Parking Ban

From November 1 through April 15, no person shall park or leave unattended a vehicle on any Town road or Town property that is required to be plowed by the Town, with the exception of downtown, during business hours, where there are designated parking places. Vehicles parked in driveways must be far enough off the traveled way so as to not hinder plowing operations or be dangerous to the snowplows.

Vehicles found in violation of the above parking regulations may be towed at the owner's expense.

Private Snowplow Operators

No private individual shall plow or blow snow onto or across or otherwise dispose of snow onto Town Roads. Violators can be ticketed by Police, per Mass General Law.

Mailbox Policy

We do not deliberately knock over or damage mailboxes. Anything installed in the Town's Right of Way (i.e., fence, mailbox, sign, etc.) is placed there at the owner's risk. Residents are encouraged to place mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the traveled way. Be aware the Town of Monterey does not reimburse for mailboxes damaged during snowplowing operations. They should be inspected regularly to insure that they are secured properly and that wood posts are not rotted out.

Winter Sand for Residents

Winter sand for residential use only is available from a pile at the transfer station and is only available when the transfer station is open. Residents are asked to take only 1 (one) 5-gallon pail at a time for personal use.

Winter Storm Operations

Paved Roads: Salt is applied as snowfall begins to prevent snow from bonding to the pavement. It is applied on the main roads and at town properties during a storm at a rate that will keep the snow from bonding to the pavement and will allow quicker cleanup when the storm has ended. Snow is plowed on paved roads with the goal of having no more than 3" on paved roads. Road temperature, air temperature, wind, snowfall rates, time of day, ice pellets, rain, freezing rain, or sleet all affect the snowplow timing and amount of salt applications. On school days, bus routes are done before other roads as the buses start running by 6:30 am.

Gravel Roads: Gravel roads are plowed after the paved roads, and our goal is to have no more that 6" accumulate on any unpaved road. Roads are sanded normally at the end of the snowfall, and sand is reapplied as needed.

Rain, Freezing Rain: Salt is spread on paved roads and town properties before rainfall when the road temperatures are below or near freezing to prevent roads from icing up. Salt is reapplied as needed to prevent freeze up. On unpaved roads, sand is applied when possible. During a rainstorm with road temperatures below freezing, unpaved roads freeze instantly, and sand that is applied is quickly frozen over. During a long rain event, we try to sand the gravel roads 3 to 4 times a day to allow some travel, but remember, they will freeze up on you rather quickly. We cannot keep them passable all the time.

Helpful Suggestions

- Use common sense; don't go out during a snowstorm if you don't have to.
- Reduce your speed, drive cautiously.
- Put **snow tires** on your vehicle, all season radials are not acceptable.
- Don't leave your vehicle on the traveled way.
- Listen to the weather forecasts and pay attention to changing conditions.

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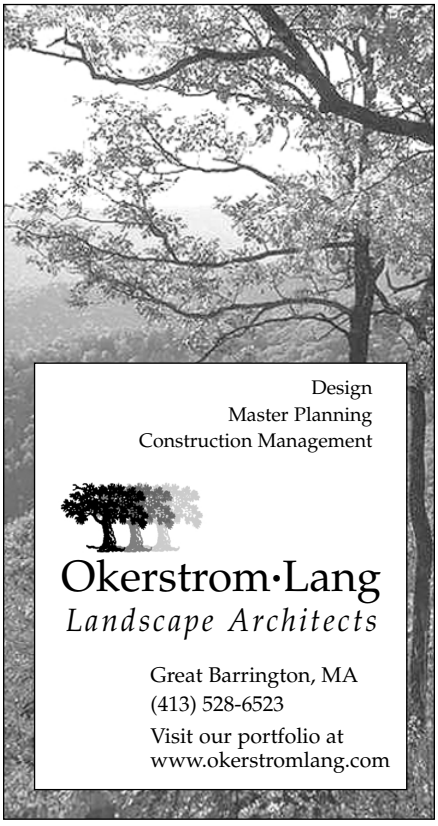

December 15th Community Potluck: Bittersweet

The November potluck was humming with conviviality as Janet McKinstry shared how she changed her life and focus to "follow her bliss." She demonstrated her multiple artistic skills in making various kinds of puppets, eclectic tapestry handbags, children's books and illustrations, and music—all this, and she also became involved in the ministry: a fascinating odyssey, with more chapters to be explored. Many thanks to her for sharing part of her life story and for the awe and inspiration she generated.

For the December Community Potluck, we are lucky to have the musical duo Bittersweet, Sue Choquette and David Healey, who have played extensively in and around Berkshire County for many years, together and individually. Their music is a blend of classic, country, bluegrass, gospel, swing tunes, and standards of the 1920s through '50s.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 15, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

— Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

Fire Department Says Thanks

The banging, prying, and thumping of an emergency roof repair made for a noisy Election Day for voters casting ballots at the Monterey Fire Station on November 2. The Fire Department wishes to extend its appreciation for the patience of voters, and particularly the polling station staff.

From November 1–3, workers stripped the station's roof system to make way for a new metal roof. In early October, Fire Department personnel discovered water leaking from the ceiling at several locations. The leaks got worse in the rainy days that followed. Simple patching was not an option.

"We had to act quickly," said Fire Chief Shawn Tryon. "Unfortunately, the work coincided with Election Day. It was loud, but everyone seemed to take it in stride, and we really appreciate that."

Sandisfield Historical Society Annual Christmas Fair

Come to Firehouse #2 on Route 57 in Sandisfield on Saturday, December 4, from 10 am to 2 pm for the Sandisfield Historical Society's annual Christmas Fair. We will have Christmas and holiday items, crafts, and tag sale items for sale, as well as raffles for great gifts. There will be at least fifteen vendors participating at the fair with a great number of gift items available for purchase. As always, you can purchase homemade baked goods, as well as lunch. Santa will also be there for the children.

If you are a vendor and want to reserve a table, contact Marcia at 413-258-2898. Also call if you have any questions about the fair. Hope to see you there. This is a great fun day that will help support Sandisfield's local organizations.

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November Wildlife Report: Foxes, Otters, Bobcats, More

In mid-November, Noel Wicke saw a small bobcat three days in a row on Curtis Road. We, one McAllester and two Bakers, saw a bobcat on Thanksgiving Day, crossing Mt. Hunger Road onto the Monterey Land Trust property. The cat was large and dark.

Jane and Larry Burke have had a family of three otters fishing and frolicking in their pond not far from the house. They sent a charming photo (right), with three sleek heads up out of the water.

Back at the end of October, Steve Snyder reported a chicken-eating fox that was making regular visits to the Gould Farm henhouse, also a moose seen on Brett Road near Swann Lodge. The moose, like some others reported recently, was unconcerned by the presence of a human being (even one on a bicycle) and continued grazing about fifteen feet away.

On Cronk Road, Bella August and Belvin Williams have seen their first American woodcock. The description is classic: long beak, round body like a plump robin, and a peachy-tan breast. This woodcock walked up the bank from the road, repeatedly poking its beak into the leaf litter looking for food. Woodcocks are known to have a flexible tip on the end of that long beak, though it is hard to spot.

Larry Burke

Three rings of bright water: the otters in the Burkes' pond.

Susan Protheroe reports the seasonal visitation of common mergansers on Lake Buel, where she also sees loons and hooded mergansers, getting ready for their southern journeys.

I saw a big porcupine last month. This month, in the very same spot, the animal is much smaller and no longer alive. For more on this, see "To Kill a Porcupine" in this issue.

Send your sightings to me for this monthly report: 528-9385 or bmca@berkshire.net.

— Bonner McAllester

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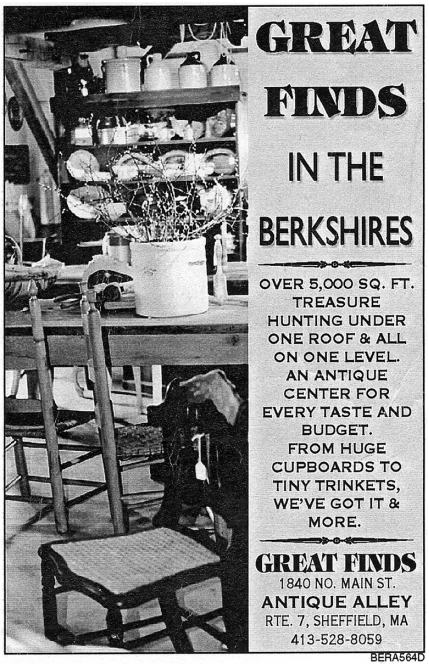

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Gift of Giving Card Sale Under Way

The Monterey Meets Ngalla annual Gift of Giving Card Sale is under way. Cards are now on sale at the Monterey General Store, or you can order cards by calling Kathie Frome (413-528-2516) or Eileen Lawlor (413-528-7916). We will send them to you.

For $5 you can purchase one card, or for $20, you can purchase a set of five cards that will, in turn, help to purchase Portable Hand-Washing Stations for families in Ngalla, Cameroon, through the efforts of African Action on AIDS and the Center for Peace Through Culture's Monterey Meets Ngalla, People to People Project.

These cards are a wonderful way to honor friends with the gift of knowing that, through your friendship, they have contributed to the health and welfare of an entire family. The cards can be given as gifts or as greeting cards for the holidays or for any occasion, at any time of year.

All proceeds go directly toward the production and delivery of Drinking Stations. Purchases and donations are tax deductible.

Monterey Library Notes

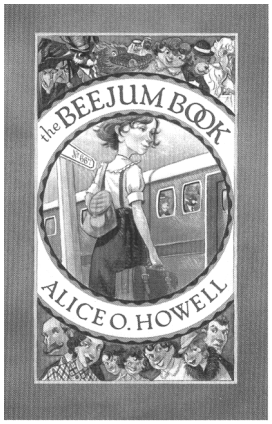
Two events are planned for December at the Monterey Library. On Saturday, December 4, at 10:00 am, Moxie the Reading Dog will host a Chanukah party! Dreidels, stories and singing—with Moxie helping out along the way. And on Saturday, December 11, at 10:30 am, Denise Andrus will read a story and have a Christmas craft for the kids.

Our library has grown over the years so that in some ways it seems only the building resembles the library I would visit when I was a child. Some of the changes just happened and could never have been predicted, but some were the result of assessing the needs of the community and then carefully planning how to meet them. It has been many years since we undertook this process at the Monterey Library, and now seems like the right time to sit back and evaluate how the Library has been serving the needs of the town.

Once we understand where we are, we need to look ahead and see where we need to go from here. This December I'm hoping to get together a committee which will start meeting in January. There will be a period of assessment, and then we'll brainstorm about the future. Some of the members of this committee will be Trustees, and some of The Friends of the Monterey Library will join, but we need to hear from some young people as well as people who maybe haven't even been to the library. This is your chance to get involved and influence the direction of the Monterey Library. We are here to serve everyone, and the goal of this process is to improve our services so that everyone will take advantage of the services we offer. If this topic is of any interest to you, and you can find the time to come to a half dozen or so meetings, please contact me by email (montereylibrary@gmail.com) or come in to the library and let us know you'd like to help. I realize the winter isn't the best time for many second-home owners, but we are hoping to have some representation—and you will be able to participate in some ways. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to helping us puzzle out how to best serve this town that has been so good to us over the years.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

These wonderful books from Monterey's own Alice O. Howell make perfect Christmas gifts!



The Beejum Book will take its place with ***The Little Princess*** and ***Charlotte's Web*** as a perennial classic.

— Andrew Harvey, author of ***The Direct Path***

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Bidwell House Museum Has Record Season

The Bidwell House Museum, the Berkshire's colonial history museum, reported a record-breaking 2010 season. "Our on-site visitation increased by eight percent, and we saw a threefold increase in program and event attendance," noted Barbara Palmer, the museum's director. House tours and special programs, such as the "Lost World of Early America" lecture series by John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University, and a stonewall-building workshop led by Monterey expert Roger Tryon, drew a total of over one thousand local residents and summer visitors.

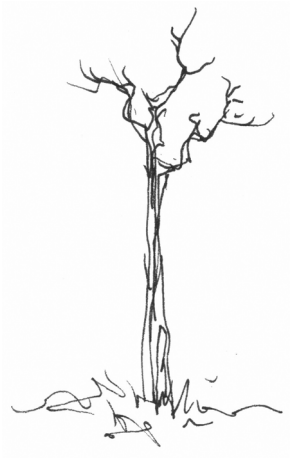
"A visit to the historic house and gardens is a rejuvenating escape from the crowds and bustle elsewhere," said Palmer. "We personalize our tours, giving a special experience to each visitor, so our tour numbers are modest by design. Our excellent event attendance this year is a wonderful endorsement of our programs." The museum celebrated its twentieth anniversary this year.

A highlight of the season was Township No. 1 Day, a full day of free events that included live music by local musicians, workshops on colonial gardening and the land history, games for the young, exhibits by the Tyringham Historical Commission and the Monterey Historical Society, and antiques appraisals by Charles Flint, among other activities. The day attracted over 250 visitors. The museum plans to make it an annual event contingent on securing funding. This year's Township No. 1 Day was supported by grants from the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils.

Museum staff is currently planning programs for the 2011 season. "We will continue our popular series of colonial history lectures," said Palmer. "We are also planning a special exhibit and programs featuring our excellent collection of antique "Redware" pottery, and hope to add programming for young audiences."

"The museum board is thrilled that so many people attended the museum and its programs this year," said board president Robert Hoogs. "We also hosted 325 supporters at our summer fundraising party, a really wonderful event for the museum."

The Bidwell House Museum is located on 192 acres of gardens, stone walls, fields, and forests at the end of Art School Road in Monterey. The museum is on the National Register of Historic Places and presents an authentic experience in life-ways of the Berkshires in the 1750s. The house will reopen to the public on Memorial Day 2011. The grounds are open year-round for hiking and nature watching during daylight hours. More information is available at www.bidwellhousemuseum.org or by calling 413-528-6888.



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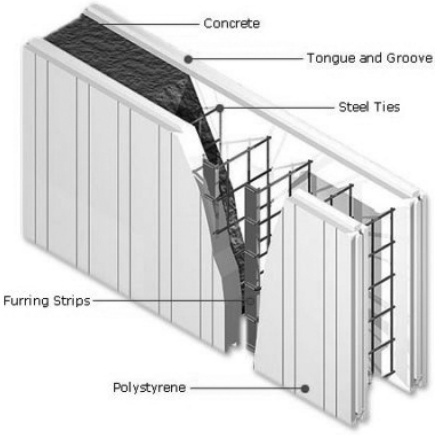
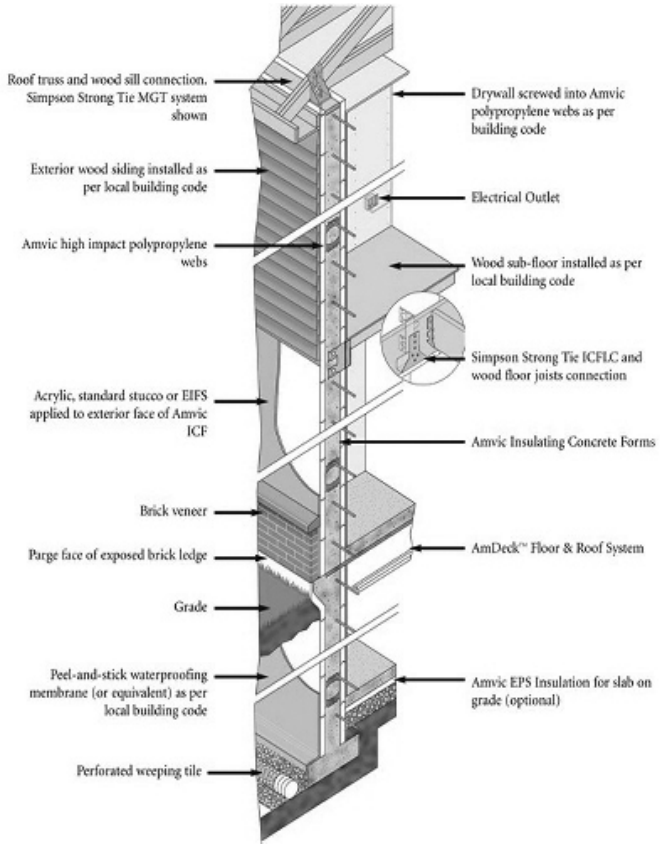
Building Structures and Envelopes: Part 2

In the last issue, Michael Erkkinen described two of the four most common building types for homes, stick framing and structural insulated panel (SIP). Here he describes the other two, ICF and straw bale.

The **ICF** (insulated concrete forms) system is comprised of forms made of expanded polystyrene, into which concrete is poured. Basically you end up with a building with walls, floors, and sometimes a roof made of reinforced concrete with insulation on each side of it. The concrete core is typically 6" or 8" thick with 3" of foam on each side to produce walls that




Roof truss and wood sill connection. Simpson Strong Tie MGT system shown
Exterior wood siding installed as per local building code
Amvic high impact polypropylene webs
Acrylic, standard stucco or EIFS applied to exterior face of Amvic ICF
Brick veneer
Parge face of exposed brick ledge
Grade
Peel-and-stick waterproofing membrane (or equivalent) as per local building code
Perforated weeping tile
Drywall screwed into Amvic polypropylene webs as per building code
Electrical Outlet
Wood sub-floor installed as per local building code
Simpson Strong Tie ICFLC and wood floor joists connection
Amvic Insulating Concrete Forms
AmDeck™ Floor & Roof System
Amvic EPS Insulation for slab on grade (optional)

are 12"or 14" thick. Embedded in the foam are plastic furring strips, which can be screwed into to hold materials such as sheathing, siding, sheetrock, etc.

The ***advantages*** of this system are: 1) the resulting building is very strong, rot resistant, and insect resistant; 2) the building is very tight and well insulated; 3) ICF floors lend themselves to passive solar and radiant heating; 4) if well designed and executed these buildings are almost indestructible; 5) ICF can work well in conjunction with other systems.

The ***disadvantages*** are: 1) very specialized skills are needed in design and execution; 2) this is probably the most expensive of the four systems; 3) this system is extremely unforgiving of mistakes, changes, and renovation; 4) it uses a large amount of concrete, which at present has a very large carbon footprint.

The last building system is **straw bale**. Bales of straw are stacked to make walls, and they are covered on the inside and outside with either concrete or lime stucco. Wire lathe is sometimes applied to the outside to hold stucco and provide structure, but the stucco

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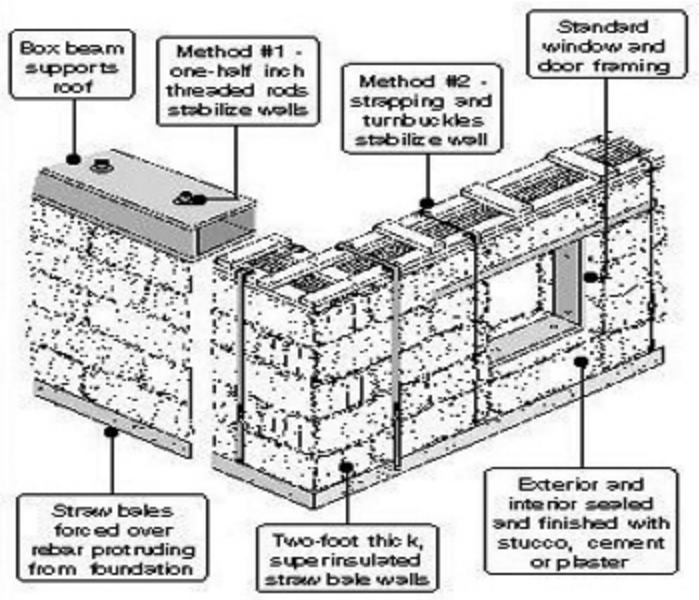
Box beam supports roof
Method #1 - one-half inch threaded rods stabilize walls
Method #2 - strapping and turnbuckles stabilize wall
Standard window and door framing
Straw bales forced over rebar protruding from foundation
Two-foot thick, superinsulated straw bale walls
Exterior and interior sealed and finished with stucco, cement or plaster

actually adheres better without the wire lathe. Windows and doors are contained in "bucks," which are typically wooden boxes that support the straw above them and provide nailing for the window and door frames. The straw bale walls are typically supported by a wider-than-normal foundation of concrete, crushed stone, or pressure-treated lumber. Bales are either 14" x 18" x 36", or 16" x 24" x 48". Depending on size and orientation of the bales, R-values can range from 18 to 30 for walls. Wall thickness can be from 14" to 24". Straw bale walls are sometimes used as the structure to support floor and roof loads, but a more common methodol is to combine it with timber framing. Floors and roofs are typically made of wood and insulation, or SIPs. This building system became popular in the Midwest in the mid to late 1800s and many straw bale houses from that time period are still in good condition.

Advantages of straw bale are: 1) straw is an abundant, sustainably grown material; 2) straw is a good insulator, and straw bale houses tend to be very tight; 3) there is a low overall carbon footprint with this type of house; 4) straw-bale building skills are relatively easy to learn; 5) straw bales lend themselves to shapes other than rectangles; 6) lime and clay plasters and stuccos tend to have antiseptic qualities and provide a very healthy house for environmentally sensitive people; 7) straw-bale houses are possibly the most fire-resistant structures.

Disadvantages are: 1) great care in design and execution must be taken to make sure straw isn't exposed to excess moisture; 2) plastering ability is needed and sometimes hard to find and expensive; 3) straw bale doesn't lend itself to easy renovation; 4) walls are thick and take up large amount of living space; 5) connection from straw-bale walls to other materials can be difficult

In summation, there is no perfect system to support, seal, and insulate a building. All systems are a compromise to some extent, and some careful consideration of all factors and needs should go into the decision of which to use. Perhaps a more important factor than the choice of a building system is the skill in design and execution of whichever system is used, combined with the needs and priorities of the building inhabitants.

— Michael Erkkinen,
Webnash Design-Build

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Lynn Webster, Monterey School's New Teacher

When Lynn Webster caught sight of the job opening at the Monterey School, she felt sure she wouldn't even have the opportunity to apply. It was an "in-house" posting, and since she was seeking employment from outside the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, she believed with regret that the job would be filled from within the system.

Living on Martha's Vineyard, Lynn was then staying at home to raise her two young daughters and to work on the farm she and her husband had established. Tending crops, livestock, and children was plenty to do during those seven years that her family lived on the island. Though they had begun with goats and chickens, their move into growing vegetables was satisfying and successful. These crops required more pleasant, less smelly work; they yielded more money at market; and they proved just as emotionally gratifying. Lynn enjoyed the thought of people eating her vegetables—individuals using them in their own home cooking and also restaurant chefs using them to create something artful.

But prior to having children and to farming, Lynn had taught in many settings. Raised in Tennessee, she graduated from Dartmouth College with a B.A. in studio art in 1994, where she also discovered a love for teaching when her work-study placement was at the Dartmouth College Childcare Center. Upon graduating, she moved to live among the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin, she herself being of Oneida extraction. There she honed her teaching skills even more, which ultimately led her to pursue a M.Ed. at Wheelock College. Graduating in 2000, she taught in the Worcester school system, which rounded out her already varied classroom experience.

Then came Lynn's years away from the classroom. But when she and her husband decided to buy land for the purpose of farming it, they knew they'd have to leave Martha's Vineyard, where farmland is hard to come by. They decided on the Berkshires, and Lynn began her search for a teaching post. The opening in Monterey, which resulted from Susan Andersen's retirement last spring after 37 years, was one Lynn was drawn to immediately. The small number of students, the one-room schoolhouse, the commitment to the school of the community in which it is set, were all qualities that Lynn found appealing—all qualities that also had her assuming the opening would be filled without delay. She explains that it's an educational environment that enables you to "tune yourself into that exact group of students," an attunement Lynn seems eager to engage in. So, when the job posting went public, Lynn was surprised and delighted. She applied, was invited for an interview, and, later that same day, was offered the job.

It's been a terrific school year so far, by all accounts. With a full classroom—eleven students from eight families—Lynn and paraprofessional Belinda Twing are busy from the moment the children walk in in the morning to the moment in mid-afternoon when they leave. Teaching is never light work, but when the students are five and six years old, the demands are many, varied, and constant. Yet Lynn so clearly enjoys this work. The classroom is bright and busy; the bulletin boards are current and lively. The young students' artwork adorns the walls; their projects attest to the hard work they're doing along with their teachers. None of this happens by accident or chance. In this Monterey branch of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, we've long enjoyed gifted, energetic teaching. With Lynn's arrival, along with Belinda's continued work, this will still be the case. So when you see Lynn in town, followed by her colorfully clad students, be sure to welcome her and to tell both her and Belinda, "Thanks!"

— Elizabeth Goodman

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Discourse on Dog Parks

Most of us live in houses, with TV and Tupperware.
Rarely sleeping under stars
with our arms open wide.

Neighbors hold their breath,
'til leaves are neatly raked in piles.

My dog thrives on freedom.
No patience for the offerings of leash or collar.
Domestication is not her goal.

On the outskirts of the city,
we drive to the local dog park.

Muddied grass, a tattered Frisbee . . .
sniffing & circling, begins the dance.

Owners stand back, hands shoved deep into pockets
talking into a phone, to someone
somewhere else.
And the place we wish to be,
is where we've been, or might be going…

"Which one is yours, how old, what breed?"
our questions sniff & circle,
the tentative volley of strangers.

Through a whirl of dogs, our own leash unclicks.

Surrounded by the tamed breaking free,
we dare talk of the economy and war,
our sister's divorce, and the best recipe for eggplant.

We huddle closer, find we're related
in work and friends,
and the dream of a better world.

Tossing a tennis ball, laughter takes off our hat.
The wind blows, and our dogs run free.

We pull hands from our pockets —
arms spanning wide,
and run back to our nature.

Finding this moment is all that there is,
like our dogs who seek nothing —
and catch only
freedom, born
in the chase.

— M. Hamilton

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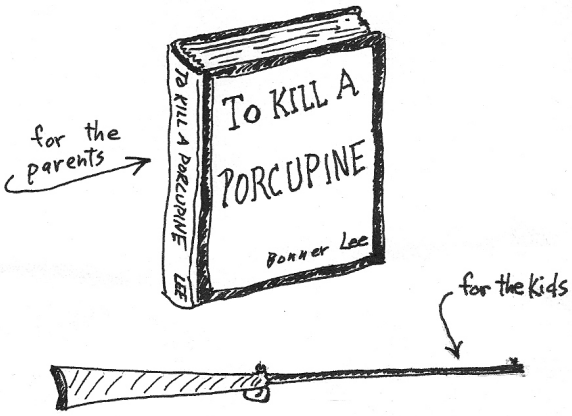
To Kill a Porcupine

Harper Lee's famous book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is an American icon, a household word, a phrase that means something to many a person. Some of us think immediately of Gregory Peck. Who knows where our thoughts go from there? Off on a movie-star tangent maybe or back to the era of black-and-white films. Some of us think of literature classes, reviews, prizes, symbolism. Some might think about childhood, lost innocence, even racism. There might even be some among us who know a mockingbird when we see one and wonder who on earth would kill one.

In the story, Atticus Finch (the Gregory Peck role from the film) tells his children to be careful with their gun. He says they can go ahead and "shoot all the blue jays" they want, but they must never kill a mockingbird. To do so would be a sin.

To be fair, or at least historically accurate, blue jays back in the black-and-white days of the novel were considered to be pests and worse. They were robbers and varmints, and some folks said they preyed upon innocent little baby birds in the nest. A man like Atticus Finch, with a name like Atticus Finch, knows a bad bird from a good one. The good one here is the mockingbird, symbolizing all that is good and innocent.

I could argue the black-and-white judgments of these two kinds of birds, or any other kinds for that matter. I could say the mockingbird is no more or less innocent than the jay, that both are just making a living the only way they know how. Nowadays folks begrudge the blue jay all those quarts of sunflower seeds, purchased downtown and imported from heaven knows where at what expense, both monetary and climatological. Though we might not encourage our children to pick off the birds with a gun, we could easily be



the guys who put up jay-proof birdfeeders or heaven knows what modern ingenious device like we seem to be constantly inventing. I know: an electronic gizmo that emits tiny sounds in jay language, urging the birds to go jump in a lake. Or under a train, or something.

Do we think the mockingbird, famous heavenly songster, is vegan in its diet? No little creatures grabbed up and guzzled by our symbol of innocence? My book says mockingbirds just love crayfish, snails, sowbugs, "a few small vertebrates," and berries. What sort of "vertebrates"? I was a small vertebrate myself, when I was younger.

When Joe and I were younger, we worked on a ranch in Wyoming. The place was a hunting camp in the fall, and guys showed up from all over the country to head out into the mountains on horseback and shoot vertebrates. We were among many locals who made a living off this trade, so I won't knock it overall. But I'll always remember one eastern fellow who came for his first visit to a hunting camp in the Rockies. He got in late, and when we met him the next morning at breakfast he was getting paired up with his hunting guide, his horse, and his lunch. Plans were being made: what were his wishes?

"I want to shoot one of everything I am allowed to shoot." Now there is a goal. He had a guidebook that listed all the animals (vertebrates, like you and me) a person can legally knock off out in Wyoming in the fall. The list was long and went from horned owls right on up to bears, moose, and elk. This man wanted one of each, including the snowshoe hare, the coyote, the bighorn sheep. I don't think blue jays were on there, but maybe because they are not found in Wyoming.

I am thinking about this man today because I have gone to pay another visit

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to a lost innocent up along Hupi Road. I go every day or two to check on progress. What we have is a mid-sized porcupine (vertebrate, like you and me), lying pretty still in a ditch. A week ago when I first came upon it, I turned it over wondering how it had come to die right there. Sure enough, little round entry and exit holes. This critter was nailed by a person with a gun, someone's child at one time. Maybe the parent said, "You can shoot all the porcupines you want, but it is a sin to shoot a mockingbird." Or maybe the person was a visitor to our mountains and wanted to nail one of everything it is legal to nail.

In my book *To Kill a Porcupine,* the parent says, "If you are hungry or looking to feed your young in the nest, and all you can find is a juicy young porcupine, grab it. Well, you'll have to be careful how you do this. Fishers flip the animal and go in underneath where there are no quills." The child learns to kill only for food, just like the fishers, mockingbirds, and the jays.

My porcupine in the ditch is not exactly dead. There is lots of life going on, in the form of small larval insects making a meal on all that free meat. I can't believe they are still so peppy after all this chilly weather, but they were obviously designed perfectly for this. They might grow up to be beetles or flies or something. A mockingbird or a jay might eat them at that point.

The real tragic character, here? To me it is the large vertebrate who didn't read the book (mine) about sparing those who are innocent and harmless unless you are hungry. The real point is: what or whom do we mean by innocent and harmless?

— Bonner J. McAllester

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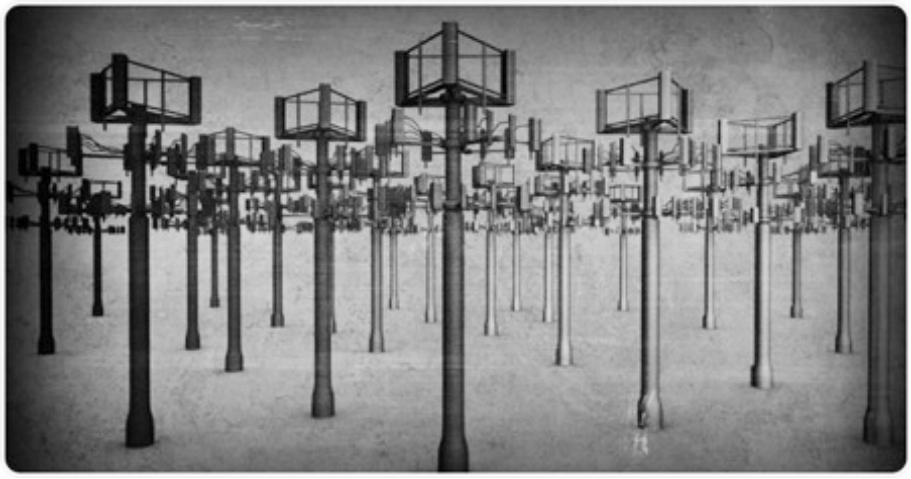

Free Movie on Cellular Technology Issues

Full Signal, a 2010 documentary film on issues relating to cellular technology, will be shown on Friday, December 10, 2010, and Saturday, January 8, 2011, in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Both presentations are free and will begin at 7:30 pm. The film is 61 minutes long.

Since 1997 and the onset of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) telephony, more and more cellular antennas have been popping up in neighborhoods all around the world to support an ever-growing number of cell-phone users.

In fact they have become so prolific in some parts of the world that they disappear into the landscape with the same subtlety as cars on the street. And those that don't "disappear" are cleverly disguised as chimneys, flagpoles, or water towers.

Full Signal features interviews with scientists around the world who are researching the health effects related to cellular technology, with veteran journalists who have called attention to the issue for decades, with activists who are fighting to regulate the placement of antennas, and with lawyers and lawmakers who represent the people wanting those antennas regulated.

Filmed in ten countries and six U.S. states, *Full Signal* examines the contradiction between health and finance, one of the many ironies of the fight to regulate antenna placement.

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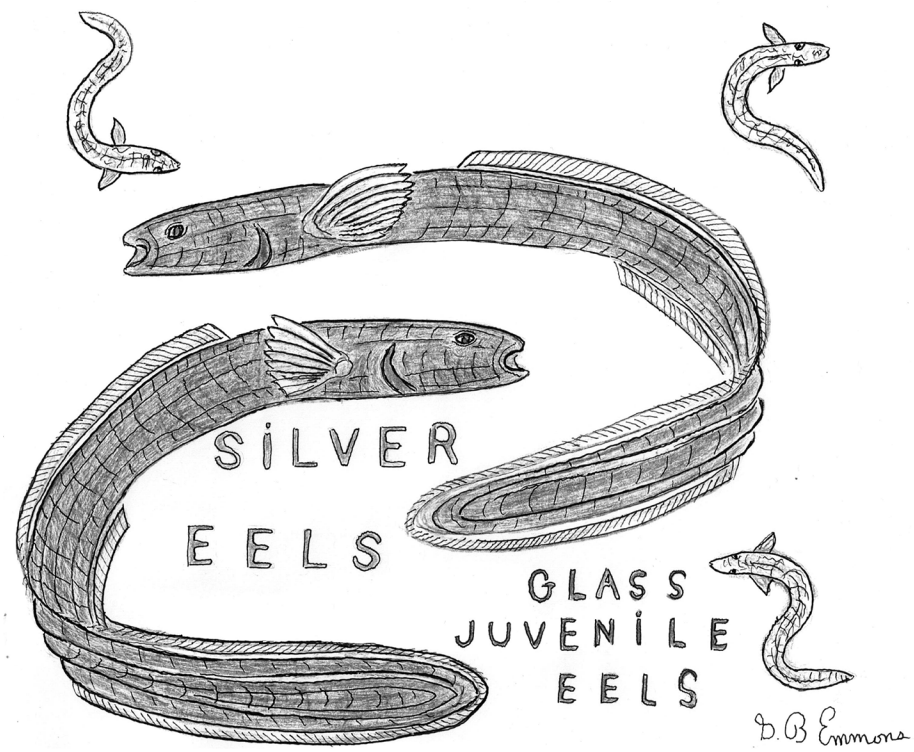
Migration of the American Eel



Before the winter ice sets in across this latitude of the Northern Hemisphere, the American eel is already well on its way out of freshwater lakes, ponds, and streams on an annual migration toward the Atlantic Ocean. It is an incredible journey, completing a round trip lasting several years, to their spawning grounds south of Bermuda in the Sargasso Sea.

How do they find their way back to the shallow estuaries that originally brought them into their inland retreats? Somehow they are driven by a reproductive force that allows them to move over wet grasslands if necessary or even to tunnel through wet sand to get through unforeseen obstacles in their path. Once at sea they are astonishingly guided by an inner instinctive GPS navigation system, not unlike our own, pointing them along a thousand-mile-long trip to the exact location of their own imprinted origin. Once they are there, they know it, and, like previous generations, they are ready to spawn and die.

The journey of their life cycle moving from fresh into salt water to spawn is unique and the direct opposite of the celebrated upstream battle of the anadromous Atlantic salmon to reproduce, so it is classified as catadromous. Instead of being laid to hatch in inland waters, their eggs are left to drift in deep currents for years until by metamorphosis they become juvenile glass eels, so called for their transparency. Later, before the next leg of their journey toward inland waters, they turn a silver color to avoid detection by predators.

In the last twenty years, the eel population in the Atlantic has declined more than 90 percent due to dams, hydropower, overfishing, pollution, and perhaps global warming misdirecting traditional ocean currents.

Eels have a long history of literary intrigue, as well as of artistic portrayal as supernatural symbols of monsters by both Leonardo and Manet. Aristotle pondered the possibility of their evolution from earthworms. Sigmund Freud dissected them to study their sex organs. More recently Rachel Carson predicted their demise as early as 1941.

For your own reading, two new books are available through the Monterey Library. To learn about these creatures, read Eels by James Prosek, a resident of Easton, Connecticut. To understand the plunder of the sea by humans, read the new, monumental Atlantic by Sandisfield resident Simon Winchester. In chapter 6 we learn, "All fish worldwide are in danger."

— George B. Emmons

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Green Up Your Holidays

Celebrations, decorations, and other special once-a-year traditions are all magical parts of the holiday season. During this time, however, we collectively generate a lot more waste than we normally do. Here are ways to reduce the volume of waste we generate during the holidays:

Choose to Reuse: Bring a bag with you when you shop. Use it each time you shop to avoid using plastic bags.

Light up the holidays with LEDs: Decorate your home with new strings of these energy efficient lights, which use 80–90 percent less energy.

Shop locally, give globally: Support the local economy with gifts or gift certificates for specialty foods and services produced in the Berkshires.

Celebrate with Zero Waste: Avoid disposable plates, cups, and plastic utensils—use the real thing.

Recharge the Power: If your presents include personal electronics and talking furry friends, be sure to include rechargeable batteries.

Rewrap: Make your own gift wrap from reused paper.

Replant or recycle: Each year over thirty million holiday trees get carted off to a landfill. Consider a live potted tree that can be planted in the spring.

Movie Review
Like Stars on Earth

Like Stars on Earth, a movie on DVD available at the Monterey Library, will give you an idea of life in India. The dialogue is in Hindi, but there are subtitles in English. Sprinkled in among the Hindi conversations are many English phrases, so I was able to understand what people were saying a lot of the time without reading the subtitles.

This movie is about a little boy approximately eight years old, named Ishaan. Ishaan has severe dyslexia, but nobody knows it—not even Ishaan himself. When he tries to read, he says the letters dance, but everybody laughs, and the teacher punishes him saying, "Trying to be funny, are you?" After failing third grade and showing no improvement, his parents send him off to a strict boarding school because his father thinks he needs more discipline.

Ishaan is very sad and depressed at the boarding school until his new and radical art teacher, Nikumbh, notices this and takes an interest in him. Nikumbh persuades the principal of the school to let him give Ishaan private lessons, explaining his learning disability. Gradually Ishaan improves and catches up.

This was a sweet, satisfying story, and I enjoyed it a lot. One of my favorite characters is the art teacher, Nikumbh. The actor who played Nikumbh, Aamir Khan, was also the director, and I thought he did a very good job. Although the topic was quite serious, at times Bollywood-type music would come on and liven things up, which made it somewhat funny. I encourage you to stop by the Monterey Library and check this movie out today.

— Ella Carlson

Eleven-year-old Ella is a lifelong resident of Monterey, a young Friend of the Library, and a member of the Monterey Youth Writing Group.

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Thanks for Everything!

It was probably like this at your Thanksgiving, too:

You talked at first using pleasantries. The job? Fine. The cat? Her bald spot is less noticeable. The drive? Lovely, really lovely.

You took a cautious glance around the table—cautious because you were painfully aware of the excruciating efforts underway to avoid "it." Because you knew what would happen when you discussed "it." Don't touch "it." Don't go near "it."

But the tension was as tight as a hypercoil in a Formula One racecar. Maybe someone said something entirely benign, like, "Boy, gas prices are getting up there again, huh?" And that's all it took.

"Oh, and I suppose Obama's response to the BP oil spill wasn't good enough for you!" your sister said, flashing snake eyes. It was all over but the shouting.

At that point you wished you had gathered the children and rushed them down to a soundproof room in the basement, because with a combination of both shock and awe, the family gathering—hitherto held together stiffly with the mortar of mash potatoes—erupted into a WWF-style smackdown. Family member against family member. And once the insults started flying, any attempt to change the subject would've been senseless, like trying to introduce a group art project involving construction paper and sparkle glue at a biker bar in Truckee.

Women were crying. Men were looking shamefaced. The wine was drained. The wallpaper was peeling at the edges. And the dog and cat—cowering and confused—had formed a historic alliance.

Or maybe it wasn't fuel prices that were mentioned. Maybe it was a topic less loaded. It could have been anything. You could have mentioned the dietary habits of a certain species of South American tree frog, and someone misconstrued it as a diatribe against global warming. "It's a cute little bugger, too," is all you were saying. "It looks like Marty Feldman in that movie—what's that movie?"

And you looked over at your uncle who, in a silent rage, had bent his salad fork back upon itself. The dining room had become combustible. All you had to do was introduce a spark—maybe just use either the word "mission" or "accomplished," or even something that only remotely rhymed with it, like, if you were wanting someone to pass you the stuffing and you said you were "wishin' for an accomplice"—and the whole place would ignite. Completely unavoidable. And at that point, only a third-party arbiter in the form of a deity lowered down on a golden-plated dumb waiter would have been capable of bringing healing to your family.

Someone got accused of wanting the terrorists to win. Someone got accused of supporting a Muslim-Kenyan-socialist-white-people-hater for president.

Pretty soon, Mitch McConnell was a cross-dresser, Nancy Pelosi worked with Mother Teresa, millions of dollars in economic stimulus money went toward the upkeep of Fidel Castro's beard, and Al Gore was secretly draining the power grid in Tennessee to watch reruns of his Oscar acceptance speech on his Jumbotron plasma TV whose glow can be seen from space.

"How did 9/11 happen? I'll tell you how 9/11 happened," your brother-in-law said.

Half the people at the table rolled their eyes. "We know, we know," your grandmother moaned. "It was Jimmy Carter's fault. And Katie Couric's."

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It's your brother-in-law's one speech. You all know it by heart. (His other speech, titled "Hans Blix Should Be Executed for War Crimes," was mothballed in 2003.)

"I want you to know that your unilateralist attacks on Katie Couric has only caused more Al Rokers to rise up in anger against you," your youngest brother said.

Pretty soon your oldest brother, his napkin still tucked into his collar, packed up the twins and shouted from the driveway about who Jesus would have voted for. As he pealed out on the front lawn, your uncle ran out after him still chewing turkey. "Oh yeah?" your uncle shouted, "Christ was history's greatest radical, buddy! He embraced the disenfranchised! Go tell that to your boys at the country club and they'll nail you to the 18th pin!"

He came back in, plopped down on the sofa and passed out as your sister was calmly enumerating the horrifying scenarios of universal healthcare—something about how in Canada when you go to have a mole removed, they amputate your leg.

Eventually, everything turned quiet. Eerily so. Everyone surveyed the rubble. Your brother pried his teeth with a toothpick. Then your sister-in-law leaned toward you. "Tell me," she says, "aren't you ashamed of yourself?"

All eyes were trained on you. You were standing there looking dumbfounded, holding a plate of ginger cake.

Your sister-in-law leaned in further. "Really," she said, "are you proud of yourself for having your two-year-old professionally photographed wearing a 'Mooselini' pin of Sarah Palin?"

Anyway, the point is, it's good to have family.

— Felix Carroll

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Frank Hawley and Alford Rowley at Lower Spectacle Pond c. 1918 (from the 2011 historical Sandisfield calendar).

Vintage Sandisfield Featured in Calendar

The Sandisfield History Book Committee is offering a calendar for 2011 featuring black-and-white historical photos of Sandisfield. Some of the photos date back to the late 1880s and highlight important buildings and landscapes as well as images of days gone by. Horse and buggy, charcoal kilns, Suicide Hill, the New Boston Inn—each month features a slice of history complete with captions and notable historical dates scattered throughout.

The cost of the 8½ x 11 calendar is $20 (includes postage), with all proceeds going to the creation of *Sandisfield Then and Now: 1762–2012*, a comprehensive history of Sandisfield to be published in time for the town's 250th birthday the year after next. To order by phone, call evenings or weekends 413-441-9542. To order by mail, send your check to: Town of Sandisfield History Book, PO Box 770, Otis, MA 01253. Email inquiries to info@sandisfieldthenandnow.org.

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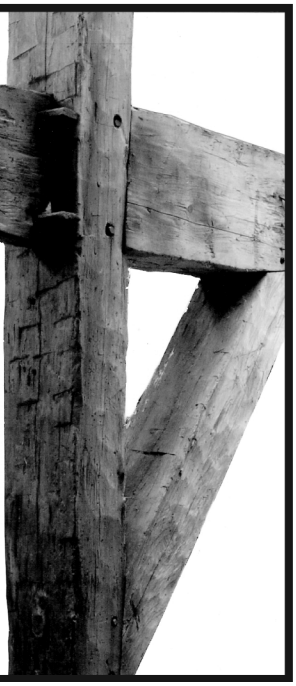

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Twenties: Friends and Giving Thanks

Communication is conversation, conveying an argument or articulating an opinion or perspective. A great deal of my job revolves around (successful) communication or improving channels of dialogue; I'm fairly good at what I do on a daily basis. Communication or conversation on a personal level sometimes happens when there is a lot at stake—when people you care about are in desperate need for someone to communicate with about their deepest and darkest fears.

Over the past month or so, I've noticed a number of my friends struggling for very different reasons—but some commonalities bind them together. Some are dealing with a loss of identity and others with the post-graduation disconnect from school; more importantly, they're asking those big and scary questions: what makes me happy and how do I do that while trying to make a living? That is a narrative so many people of all ages and walks of life are grappling with right now—the stress, the number crunching, and the weariness that some cannot even fathom. The friends I'm referring to here are for the most part still incredibly fortunate: they do have jobs of varying types, they have loving families, and they're carefully forging their way in the world.

My mother said to me very recently that the twenties are a time when all that teenage stuff just increases in size, scope, and significance—or something close to that. Many of my friends are experiencing new manifestations of the same motivators from childhood, and so my mother's sentiment resonates profoundly. The realities of being a "twenty something" hit me very early on, and they're probably not over yet—but unlike most people my age, I'm fortunate enough to have a pretty smooth life right now. I've had several intense conversations with these specific friends since their lives tried to get the best of them, and in doing so I learned a great deal about myself.

The first is that while I am compassionate and insightful, I am also a clear thinker, and I'm practical. Those of you who know me are probably rolling your eyes a little bit right now—and thinking, "Tell me something I don't know." It wasn't so long ago though, when I remember not being able to draw boundaries with friends, to the point where those relationships were unhealthy for me. I did not know myself well enough then to be constructive when communicating with them—I simply let their needs take from me. I've started growing into my own selfhood to an extent that allows me to be a very good friend when needed—and to also stand up for myself and not worry that it makes me a bad friend. Now my sympathy has limits, mostly when people repeat mistakes or when they create negative situations in their lives. Honesty has always been a personality characteristic my friends value, and I do worry I am too harsh. Recently, I think I've learned how to compensate by depending on my ability to listen and analyze, using what I hear but not making assumptions.

Being in your early twenties is hard in a way that being a teenager or an older adult is not—but sometimes your friends are the worst and best part of your life. Those who are living it simultaneously understand it, because they are struggling under the same burdens. Right now, I am not living those out as many friends are, and I've had the benefit of many adult friends who've always helped me navigate these challenges. Therefore, I can grow as a person while simultaneously helping

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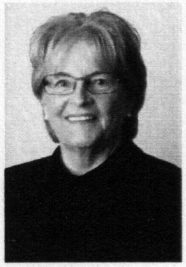
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friends by being a sounding board—and it seems positive that it no longer drains me in the same way it did years ago. It is not easy when people you care about break down, because they're just like you in many ways. The amazing thing is that I can see how far I've come, so far that I feel I can help them even more than simply being there for them when it gets tough. Part of what I love about my job is helping our students do more than they ever imagined—a product of my upbringing—but friends were always harder for me when it came to providing constructive guidance. I guess I'm growing up.

It's Thanksgiving, and due to many very personal conversations and recent moments, I realize again with new clarity how much I am thankful for: my wonderful parents, whose constant encouragement and support enable me to reach higher than I think I can achieve; my full and rich life in DC with amazing colleagues and an inspiring job that I love to go to every day. I give thanks for my beautiful apartment, my newly found cooking skills, and my ever-evolving sense of healthy living. I am so blessed to have such an amazing group of friends, from every significant experience and chapter in my life. A good number live in DC, amazingly enough, but I hold those who don't just as close to my heart. Finally, I am thankful for my home in the Berkshires that welcomes me with open arms no matter what hour I roll into town—and everyone here who makes me feel as though I never left. Happy Holidays.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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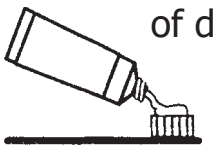

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Facts Not Fear Please

To the Editor:

In last month's "The Town" article (under "Cell Towers, Telecommunication"), an erroneous comment was made that creates a fear reaction among citizens and town representatives whenever it is stated: the citing of a law that says towns cannot deny cell-phone towers. In fact there is no such law, and towns and cities (including Great Barrington) have successfully stopped and are currently stopping proposed towers. Although it is true that the 1996 Telecommunications Act left no outlet to stop cell towers for health reasons, it does provide town governments and individuals the right to stop the siting based on effects to property values and aesthetics. Also, Gabriel Seymour, a Connecticut attorney, is currently arguing the Jaeger Appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, citing the fact that the Migratory Bird Act is being ignored. This is a critical precedent as it affects international law. According to Seymour, "…there is little understanding even in high courts of the fundamental problem—rapid deployment of a technology for which no appropriate safety standards exist."

I am all for technology but it must be used safely, and if it takes petitioning under the guise of other protections to assure that health factors are considered, I am all for it. After all, when lobbying congress, the telecommunications associations made no effort to bring forth the science that showed the facts: that there are higher rates of leukemia the closer one is to a cell tower, that the frequencies at which cell devices broadcast can cause cataracts and cancer—and I touch on only a few of the side effects. And now scientists are coming forth at an alarming rate to warn of the non-thermal lethal effects of radiation from wireless devices. There is also a movement in this country and internationally to get wireless out of schools (changing to fiber optics) as administrators have been educated by parents of hypersensitive children.

I hope that the leaders in our community will lead by example and educate themselves in preparation for the debates on tower siting and wireless technology. We can make a difference in demanding that companies like Verizon, which hold safety patents they bought up but have failed to use, protect us from the hazards I have mentioned—as well as many others too numerous to mention. I hope all Monterey community members take advantage of educating themselves starting by attending the showing of the documentary film *Full Signal* in Monterey December 10 and January 8 (see p. 15). Please start—in years to come you will be glad you did.

— Kate Ryan

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Remembering Edgar L. Stencel, Jr.

Edgar Lewis Stencel, Jr., of Hupi Road, Monterey, died on October 28 at Providence Care Center in Lenox. Born September 28, 1933, in Los Angeles, CA, he was the son of Edgar Lewis Stencel, Sr., and Maria Kaspar Stencel. He graduated from Northeastern University in Boston with a degree in engineering.

At the age of seventeen, Edgar enlisted in the United States Army; soon thereafter he was discharged due to the fact that he misrepresented his age. He enlisted in the United States Navy on September 11, 1951, served in the Korean War, receiving the Navy Occupation Service Medal and the National Defense Medal before being honorably discharged on July 22, 1954.

In 1955 Edgar first met Patricia Hebert, but each went their separate ways. Not having seen each other in over forty years, the two met again, fell in love, and were married on December 31, 1997, in Sarasota, FL.

As an aerospace engineer Edgar held twemty-seven patents including OSI Bolt and Eddie Bolt, which are used on the F-18 Hornet, F -1 Stealth, and B-2 Stealth. He was an active member of the Drum and Bugle Corps of the Los Angeles Masonic Lodge in California, as well as a member of the Quiet Birdmen, an elite organization of pilots with many flying hours.

He is survived by his wife, the former Patricia Hebert at home in Monterey. He also leaves two sons, Edgar L. Stencel, III, and his wife, Jill, and their son, Gavin Stencel, and Kristopher Stencel of Los Angeles, CA; his stepdaughter, Polly Epstein and her husband, Sam, and their three children; his brother-in-law Robert Hebert and his wife, Linda, of Monterey. He was predeceased by a brother and a sister.

A service celebrating the life of the late Edgar L. Stencel, Jr. was held on Saturday, November 13. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Shriners Hospitals for Children Springfield or HospiceCare of the Berkshires through Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions.

Al, Amy, & Aaron Goldfarb
Chris & Kim Hines
Brian & Paula Snyder
Paul & Sue Epstein
Alan Kranz

CATA Annual Holiday Sale

This holiday season you can shop locally and support a nonprofit organization that provides arts workshops to 600 people with disabilities in Berkshire County. Community Access to the Arts is holding its annual holiday sale on Saturday, December 4, from noon to 4 pm in its gallery on Railroad Street in Great Barrington.

Products created in the organization's crafts cooperative, CATAdirect, include handmade cards, holiday cards, jewelry, tote bags, and felted accessories. Participants with disabilities work with volunteers to produce handcrafted items, receiving a commission on products sold.

CATA also produces customized holiday cards and calendar cards for businesses and professionals. Card samples and all products are available for viewing and purchasing Monday through Friday 9 am–5 pm in the CATA Boutique at 40 Railroad Street, second Floor. For more information or to view products online, visit www.communityaccesstothearts.org.

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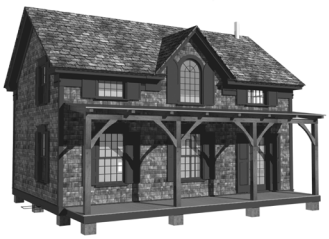
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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall.

Every Friday in December: Live Music at Monterey General Store, 7–9 pm. See p. 2 ad for performers.

Saturday, December 4:

Monterey Art and Artisans Studio Tour, 10 am–4 pm. Pick up maps at General Store.

Chanukah Party hosted by Moxie the Reading Dog, 10 am, Monterey Library. Kids of all ages welcome.

Sandisfield Historical Society Annual Christmas Fair, 10 am–2 pm, Firehouse #2, Route 57 in Sandisfield. See p. 6.

Thursday, December 9: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Friday, December 10: *Full Signal*, documentary film on issues relating to cellular technology, 7:30 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Free; see p. 15.

Saturday, December 11: Denise Andrus will read a story and have a Christmas craft for the kids, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

Wednesday, December 15: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. The musical duo Bittersweet will provide the program. See p. 6.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Submission deadline is the 23rd of each month. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 18: Lenox Holiday Contra Dance and Potluck, Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street, Lenox. Early Dance, 5 to 7 pm, with music by Spare Parts, and Jon Greene teaching and calling the dances; potluck dinner from 7 to 8 pm; evening dance from 8 to 11:30 pm, with music by The Russet Trio, and Fern Bradley teaching and calling the dances. $10 for one session, $15 for both; new dancers, 2nd dance free; go to www.LenoxContraDance.org for directions, info, & bad weather cancellations.

Friday, December 24, Saturday, December 25: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; Town Hall, Library closed.

Monday, December 27: Adult Book Discussion Group, 7:30 pm Monterey Library.

Friday, December 31, Saturday, January 1: New Year's Eve and New Year's Day; Town Hall, Library closed.

Saturday, January 8: *Full Signal*, documentary film on issues relating to cellular technology, 7:30 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Free; see p. 15.

The Observer
October 26 – November 25

High temp. (10/26)	73°
Low temp. (11/25)	22°
Avg. high temp.	49.5°
Avg. low temp.	32.4°
Avg. temp.	41°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	3.49 in.
Snowfall	1.9 in.

Precipitation occurred on 17 days.

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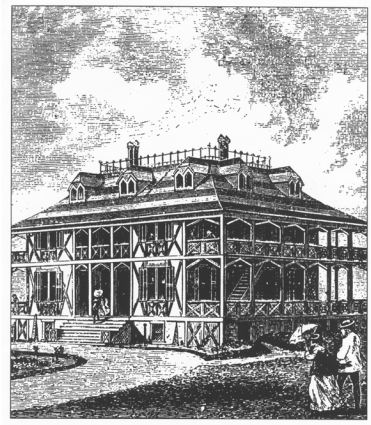

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Reporter.....Sue Protheroe
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Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 9, 23; George Emmons, p. 16;
Bonner McAllester, p. 14.

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